S. m. chapini I would probably still consider it a separate species primarily on account of the difference in the shape and proportion of the outermost rectrix in *S. schoutedeni*. This feather is much less elongate and emarginate than in adult *S. myoptilus* but much more so than in juveniles and immatures. Lack (1956) pointed out how important the shape and proportion of the outermost rectrix was in making sense of the many taxa assigned to *Apus* by authors. I find the same to be the case in *Cypsiurus* (Brooke in prep.). I therefore believe that it is more informative to treat *S. schoutedeni* as a full species pending receipt of further specimens and some data on its biology.

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The splenius capitis muscle of swifts

by P. J. K. Burton

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In a recent paper, Brooke (*Durban Mus. Novit. IX* (2), 1970: 13–24) refers to a personal communication from myself to the effect that M. splenius capitis (a cervical muscle inserted on the skull) is of simple structure in his proposed sub-family Cypseloidinae and complex in his Apodinae. This statement is incorrect; it originated from a conversation during September 1969, when my work on M. splenius capitis was in a preliminary stage. This study has now been completed, and its results published (Burton, *Ibis* 1971: 19–28). The present note is intended to clarify the point raised in Brooke's paper in the light of these results.

Brooke's term "complex" applies to a condition of the pair of MM. splenii capitis which I have named the "cruciform origin". This condition is present in all members of the Apodiformes which I have examined, including the Trochilidae and Hemiprocnidae, as well as the Apodidae. I have dissected 11 species of Apodidae, from the genera *Cypseloides*, *Nephoecetes* and *Streptoprocne* (members of Brooke's Cypseloidinae) and *Collocallia*, *Hirundapus*, *Chaetura*, *Cypsiurus* and *Apus* (members of Brooke's Apodinae). Brooke's statement evidently arose from my remarks concerning *Streptoprocne zonaris*, which shows a less extreme form of the cruciform origin than other species of swifts examined. In this species, the anapophyses of the 2nd cervical vertebra (from which M. splenius capitis originates) remain distinct, whereas in the rest, they are fused with the neural spine to form a continuous ridge. However, *Cypseloides* and *Nephoecetes* resemble the genera which Brooke assigns to the Apodinae in this respect. It is worth mentioning that in the Hemiprocnidae, a similar difference was found within the single genus *Hemiprocne;* specimens of *H. comata* examined showed a similar condition to *Streptoprocne*, whereas in *H. mystacea*, anapophyses and neural spine are fused as in most Apodidae.

The atypical condition seen in *Streptoprocne* may prove to be of some functional interest. However, I do not consider it relevant to the separation of these two subfamilies, and recommend that the structure of the MM. splenii capitis be omitted from any future discussion of this proposal.

My thanks are due to Richard Brooke for reading this note in draft. He agrees that the structure of M. splenius capitis is not relevant in any attempt to split the Apodidae but still believes that the other factors adduced justify his proposals.

The Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* wintering in Iran

by Christian Hjort

Received 5th May, 1971

According to current literature (Ticehurst 1938, Dement'ev *et al.* 1968, Vaurie 1959) the winter range of the Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* does not include Iran. Vaurie (1959) notes that the subspecies *humei* winters in Afghanistan east of Kabul south of the Hindu Kush and in the Paropamisus and foothills to the border of Iran. He also mentions the one bird, belonging to the *humei* subspecies, which was collected at Birjand in Khorasan, eastern Iran, on 4th January 1927 (Ticehurst 1938). This seems to be the only winter observation of the species hitherto made in Iran (one observation, made in Gorgan on 16th March 1917, and mentioned by Schüz 1959, falls within the period of spring migration).

Taking this into account it was with some surprise that during January 1971 I found the bird at three different places in that country. In Kerman one bird was seen on the 18th, in Zahedan in Baluchistan two birds were seen on the 20th and a minimum of two more heard, and finally on the 25th one bird was seen in Teheran. The observations were made at close range and, except the one in Teheran, with the help of binoculars (7 × 50).

All the birds had a rather greyish appearance, greyish white below and greyish green above. This was probably partly due to worn plumage. The pre-nuptial moult, according to Ticehurst (1938), begins in early March. Also on only one of the birds were both wing bars clearly visible, on two the frontal one could be seen only with some difficulty, and on one bird it was invisible even with the help of binoculars.

Of course the fact that none of the birds were studied in the hand prevents me from judging as to which subspecies they belonged, although for geographical reasons *humei* seems to be the most probable one. Also according to my notes the call (surprisingly loud for such a small bird) has a rather resemblance to the "tiss yip" stated by Ticehurst (1938) to be characteristic for *humei*. But as they were written down in "swedish" it does not seem adviseable trying to re-do them into "english" here. Note also that Dement'ev *et al.* (1968) have a rather different description of the respective calls of the *humei* and *inornatus* subspecies, as compared with that given by Ticehurst (1938).

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